

Message Text

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SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

ATMOSPHERICS. THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF PUBLIC AND MEDIA INTEREST THIS PAST WEEK HAS BEEN THE NEW FEDERAL BUDGET WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT TUESDAY EVENING. ORIGINALLY BILLED AS A BUDGET DESIGNED TO COMBAT AUSTRALIA'S ACCELERATING INFLATION AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, IT IS NOW BEING DESCRIBED, EVEN BY ITS PROPONENTS, AS "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD" OR "NEUTRAL". SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET ARE: (1) MAJOR REFORMS OF THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX SYSTEM DESIGNED TO RELIEVE THE TAX BURDEN ON LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES; (2) A TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT REDUCTION IN COMPANY TAXES AS AN INCENTIVE TO BUSINESS; (3) SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE TAX ON BEER, LIQUOR, CIGARETTES AND GASOLINE; AND (4) RESTRAINTS ON FURTHER INCREASES IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

POST ACTIVITIES

1. USIS CANBERRA INFORMATION ASSISTANT, DIGBY MCLEAY, FILED A LIVE REPORT TO VOA WASHINGTON, FOLLOWING THE BUDGET PRESENTATION, WHICH INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FEDERAL TREASURER, MR. HAYDEN.

2. AMSPEC DR. STEPHEN HESS IS HAVING A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM IN
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SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND CANBERRA. HE IS MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY

FACULTY, GRADUATE STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSSING AND EXPLAINING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND WHAT MAY BE THE OUTLOOK FOR 1976.

3. VOLSPKR DR. KRAUSE CONCLUDES HIS BUSY PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA THIS WEEK BY PARTICIPATING IN A SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PROBLEMS AT PORT STEPHENS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

4. USIA'S VTR ON THE NIKOLIAS DANCE TROUPE IS BEING INCORPORATED INTO A DISPLAY AT THE VICTORIA NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART RUNNING FOR THREE WEEKS BEGINNING AUGUST 23. THE CURATOR OF THE GALLERY HAS EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THIS TAPE CITING IT AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE AMERICAN MUSIC/ART/DANCE SCENE TODAY.

5. CPAO MOUNT HAS SPENT THREE DAYS IN MELBOURNE THIS WEEK BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH PART OF HIS NEW TERRITORY.
MOUNT

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